

Great Battle in West Seemingly Has Come to Standstill

they could. They inquired about the victims, and found that there were no Americans among them, although some were said to have claimed American citizenship.

FIRST TO SHOW TANGIBLE SYMPATHY

The American embassy was the first to show tangible sympathy by sending its staff to the scenes of desolation. Colonel George M. Dunn, American military attaché, motored to Avezzano and returned from that place last night.

"I never dreamed of such a horrible situation," he said. "The whole town is ruined, as every house is down and only three stables remain intact. Churches, palaces and dwellings have crumbled to the ground. What once were streets are now full of debris to the height of six or seven feet."

"Within a short time the work of rescue will be useless, as all those buried under the ruins will be dead. The entire population is extinguished, the people either being dead or wounded in hospitals."

"The dead in the ruins compose the greater percentage of the inhabitants. Over 10,000 were killed at Avezzano alone, while the remainder of the population, about 1,500 persons, are practically all injured. Very few escape without wounds, because every house collapsed at once and nobody had any chance to run out."

Colonel Dunn said Avezzano was now provided with all kinds of supplies, and that the attention of relief parties must be turned to the smaller and less accessible villages.

Trains are running regularly to the earthquake districts, and on their return each is filled with wounded, most of whom are being transported to Rome, where they are being well cared for. Prince Colonna, the Mayor, is doing all in his power for the injured.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM PRESIDENT WILSON

WASHINGTON, January 16.—President Wilson sent the following message of sympathy to-day to King Emmanuel of Italy:

"I am greatly shocked at the news of the terrible calamity which has fallen on Italy and her people. I beg to assure Your Majesty of my sincere sympathy and that of the government and people of the United States in this moment of widespread suffering and national grief."

General George W. Davis, chairman of the central committee, American Red Cross, discussed with the President to-day the situation in Italy and plans for extending relief. Ambassador Page, at Rome, cabled the State Department, however, that the Italian government would accept no aid from foreign governments, and it was decided to postpone for the time being a proclamation by the President calling on Americans for financial aid.

General Davis suggested that aid might be extended through the Italian Red Cross since the Italian government did not wish to receive it, and Ambassador Page was asked by the State Department to ascertain if this course would meet with any objection.

KING ALBERT OF BELGIUM SENDS HIS CONDOLENCES

PARIS, January 16 (9:20 P. M.).—A message of condolence on the earthquake disaster has been sent by King Albert of Belgium to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy.

"By the unfeeling for suffering of my own people," King Albert telegraphed. "I understand so much more how great must be the sorrow for Your Majesty and the Queen in view of the terrible catastrophe your country has suffered. It is with ardent emotion I think of the numerous victims, and I express to Your Majesty the sincere sympathy and profound sympathy. Italy's mourning will be shared by the Belgian nation."

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE OCCURS AT SORA

PARIS, January 16 (2:55 P. M.).—A heavy dispatch from Sora says that another earthquake occurred there last night. Walls fell, imperiling those engaged in the work of rescue and greatly alarming the people.

King Victor Emmanuel visited Sora and made a round of the improvised hospitals. He then made an inspection of the city.

Prior to his arrival at Sora, the King stopped at the market of San Domenico, where many injured from Avezzano are being cared for. It has been established definitely that all officials of the under prefecture at Avezzano are dead.

GERMAN ADVANCE HALTED BY FRENCH

(Continued from First Page.)

further disaster at the hands of the Russians.

The Eleventh Army Corps, sent from Brest to help the broken Tenth Turkish Corps, which was making a stand at Kara Urgan, according to Petrograd advices, has met with a defeat which some correspondents describe as irretrievable. Should this reverse prove as serious as reported, the Turkish position would be extremely serious, for the Russian fleet can prevent reinforcements being sent from Europe, having already sunk eight sailing vessels carrying troops.

Enver Pasha, the Turkish War Minister, and leader of the Young Turks, has returned to Constantinople to put down a conspiracy discovered there against that organization, and particularly against Enver Pasha himself.

VICTORIES NEAR SOISSONS GREATEST IN MONTHS

BERLIN, January 16 (by wireless).—Recent victories in the region of Soissons are regarded by German military experts as the greatest German military successes in France for three months. The outcome there confirms their conviction, they declare, that General Joffre's offensive has broken down.

Major Morant, writing in the Tageblatt, says French losses in the three days' fighting in the Soissons district have reached 20,000. His conclusion is that this victory must expedite German operations in the Argonne forest and around the French fortresses at Verdun.

ROUMANIAN STUDENTS CALLED TO ARMS

PARIS, January 16 (4:35 P. M.).—A dispatch to the Temps from Geneva says Roumanian students in Swiss universities received orders to return to-day to return home on account of mobilization of the Roumanian army.

SPEND FIFTY-EIGHT DAYS WITHIN LINES OF ENEMY

Difficulties Encountered by Two French Officers in Regaining Their Corps.

PROMOTED AND DECORATED

Stiffened With Rheumatism and Feet So Swollen They Cannot Wear Shoes, Escape From Capture Is Considered Remarkable.

[Correspondence of Associated Press.] PARIS, December 10.—Lieutenant Bernard and Private Morand de Joffre, the former promoted captain and decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor; the latter promoted second lieutenant and decorated with the military medal, succeeded in rejoining their corps after passing fifty-eight days within the enemy's lines.

When the 12th company of the 10th Regiment of Infantry, commanded by Captain Blandin, found itself isolated from the rest of the regiment and surrounded by the enemy in the center of a wood the evening of August 25 it numbered about 300 men and forty officers. They decided that under no circumstances would they surrender and at once began an effort to pierce the German lines.

The company made a night attack upon the village of R., August 28, and captured two barricades under a heavy fire, the advance guard losing half of its number.

Captain Blandin, wounded by a bullet in the thigh, had to be helped along by his men, but he would not give up. After scaling the second barricade the men found themselves before new defenses consisting of wire, barbed wire, and machine guns. The advance guard charged against it twice and was nearly annihilated. The company now numbered 100 men.

Notwithstanding the declaration of their ranks these survivors, led by Captain Blandin, made another advance of 500 yards. The men besought Captain Blandin to allow them to carry him.

The safety of the company alone counts," he replied to Lieutenant Bernard. "Take command and 'forward, march.'" The men took a pathetic leave of the captain, who crawled into a thicket as the remainder of the company moved on. Time pressed more and more—the enemy growing in numbers hemmed them in closer and closer. They plunged into the forest of J.—with only eighty men left.

FIND FEW HOURS' RESPIRE IN DEPTHS OF FOREST

After vainly attacking a footbridge over the R., the company finally forced the stream, then found a few hours' respite in the depths of the forest. They resumed their march toward C.—and again found a new force of the enemy. Exhausted by hunger and fatigue their resistance became less and less vigorous and here they lost fifty-five men.

The two officers and nineteen men that remained succeeded in fording the P.—and bivouacked the 29th near a potato patch, which furnished them a real meal.

After two more days' wandering they were obliged to come back to the potato field. After a day's rest they started again, hiding among the rocks, sleeping in the damp undergrowth of forests, stiffened with rheumatism, their feet so swollen that they were obliged to rid themselves of their shoes. As fast as detachments were sent out to reconnoiter all or part were captured by the Germans.

September 30 the detachment was reduced to seventeen men.

Lieutenant Bernard decided to make a final effort the night of October 16 to reach the French lines, but now there was only a single soldier really physically capable of following him. The rest were completely worn out. Yet some of them insisted on dragging and Private de Joffre. Those that went on and those that remained embraced tearfully the chief of the detachment, buried their arms and consoled those who remained behind with the assurance that they had saved his honor, and if they fell they would be remembered by the Germans they had none the less made a heroic effort.

On October 20, Lieutenant Bernard and Private Morand de Joffre were themselves worn out to the last degree of endurance, and they bivouacked that night with the assurance that the Germans would either take them in the morning or they would be found dead there later on.

The two men moved on again in the morning and debouching from a thicket into a clearing October 28, the morning of the twenty-ninth day of their march, fell, weeping for joy at the sight of the familiar red trousers of the French Infantry.

Very truly yours,
THOMAS J. LYNCH,
525 Newbury Street, Ripon, Wis.

I have read the above statement that Thomas J. Lynch bought Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root and made out the above statement is true in substance and fact.

E. J. BURNHIDE,
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of November, 1914.

F. A. PRESTON.

Weak Kidneys Often the Result of Overwork

On several occasions I have been unable to work and suffered severe pains in the back, due to my kidneys. I called on a doctor of Ripon, Wis., but received no relief.

I tried Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, which gave me instant relief. I was then able to resume work. Swamp-Root is the only relief I can get from kidney disease, which I am subject to in the spring of the year. I am writing this testimonial through my own free will that sufferers of kidney and bladder diseases will know of the wonderful merits of Swamp-Root. I recommend Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root whenever I can and always have a bottle of Swamp-Root in my home.

I purchased Swamp-Root of Mr. C. J. Burnside, druggist, of 202 Main Street, Ripon, Wis.

Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You. Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince any one. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention the Richmond Sunday Times-Dispatch. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

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WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

French

PARIS, January 16.—The French War Office this afternoon gave out an official statement as follows: "In Belgium yesterday there was artillery fighting in the region of Nieuport and in the vicinity of Ypres."

"From the Lys to the Somme—At Notre Dame de Lorette, near Carancy, the enemy recaptured a portion of the trenches he lost to us January 14. At Blangy, near Arras, we have continued to make progress. The enemy delivered an energetic attack, preceded by a violent artillery fire, on our positions to the west of La Boisselle. This attack was repulsed."

"Along the entire front, from the Somme to the Meuse, no infantry engagements were reported yesterday. In the sectors of Soissons and Rheims our artillery obtained noticeable advantage at several different points, such as the scattering of a regiment that was about to reassemble, causing an explosion in a German battery, the destruction of field works."

"In the Argonne there was yesterday a rather determined artillery attack on our positions at Pontaine Madame. The enemy was repulsed."

"From the Argonne to the Vosges—We checked completely a spirited attack of the enemy directed against our trenches at Filirey, and the Germans evacuated the crest of the hill to the north of Clemery, east of Pont-a-Mousson. This they were compelled to do by the fire of our artillery."

"In the sector of the Vosges there were artillery exchanges on all the front. There was also some heavy rifle firing, particularly at Tete du Faux."

"In upper Alsace there was no change."

The following official communication was issued by the War Office to-night:

"There is nothing of importance to communicate, except that our troops have taken possession of a new trench in the vicinity of Perthes and of a wood from 200 to 300 metres in front of our lines to the north of Beauséjour."

German

BERLIN, January 16 (via wireless to London).—The following official statement was given out to-day at the War Office:

"In the western theatre of war only artillery battles took place in the neighborhood of Nieuport. The enemy's attacks on our positions northeast of Arras were repulsed. In a counterattack, our troops captured two trenches and made prisoners of the occupants."

Austrian

VIENNA, January 16 (via London, 9:50 P. M.).—The official communication was given out to-day by the Austrian War Department as follows:

"The situation in Poland, Galicia and the Carpathians is unchanged. On the Danube River our artillery is engaging the enemy's field and heavy artillery, and has gained more fine successes."

SPENDS NIGHT IN TRENCH FILLED WITH WATER

LONDON, January 16.—"Some moist" is what an American probably would comment on this bit from the pen of a British private now at the front:

"I had the most miserable time in my life two nights ago. We went into some reserve trench, which are two feet wide and two feet six inches deep. They are covered with straw and mud and sticks so as to be hidden. There is no room even to sit up, and they are absolutely dark. It began raining like blazes in the middle of the night, and went on incessantly; the water came pouring in, and finally, after lying soaked to the skin in about three inches of mud and water, we had the order to evacuate them. It really was perfectly awful. We had nothing to change into, so our packs, with a spare shirt and socks, were full of mud and water. How I longed for a hot bath and some whiskey and a nice, warm bed."

"We were sent into an old bullet-

riddled barn, and had three sows, some little pigs and a goat as bedfellows, but it was absolutely paradise to what we had just been experiencing."

"Last night we left at 7 o'clock, and got to bed at 1:30 in the morning. It was raining the whole day, and our kits seemed like lead. It is awfully heavy at the best of times, but when one's blanket and coat is soaked it is too awful to carry with a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition."

Go to Bed To-night

And contrast the comfort you get out of that old mattress you have under your body with

A Nice Genuine Hair Mattress Made By

Sydnor & Hundley

Say what you will, we can make you comfortable.

Phone for a price and give an order for a man to measure your bed.

Yours for a comfortable sleep,

Sydnor & Hundley, Inc.

For Your Wife--

She enjoys music, and she'll delight in playing her favorite compositions on the

INNER-PLAYER

It's the easiest of all Player-Pianos to play, and the tone is indescribably beautiful. For your son or daughter, the educational advantages of this splendid instrument are many. It affords them an opportunity to become familiar with the world's best music

blayed by themselves—with the definite precision of a master musician. Call and see these superb instruments, and learn how easily you can own one now.

Enjoy the Opera at Home on the Victor-Victrola

Our premium plan enables you to immediately enjoy the brilliant voices of ALL the greatest stars of the operatic stage, upon the payment of only the moderate First Premium. Call and hear your favorite artists—and let us explain our attractive plan of ownership.

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BRITISH EXPLANATION OF DETENTION OF SHIPS

The Associated Press Gives From Official Sources Reasons for England's Course.

SOME HAD CARGOES FOR ENEMY

Others Held While Examination Is Made, and Then Allowed to Proceed—Cases Give Rise to Representations From Washington.

LONDON, January 16 (6:35 P. M.).—The Associated Press is able to give from official sources the British explanation concerning the twelve ships carrying American cargoes whose detention gave rise to the representations to Great Britain from Washington.

The Arkansas, Danish, was detained for a complete examination, because she carried consignments believed to be destined to enemies of Great Britain.

The Canton, Swedish, had on board copper for the agent of a German firm. Rubber she carried was released as a courtesy to Sweden, although England was satisfied it would have been condemned by a prize court. The Canton reached Kirkwall on December 22. The copper was held for a prize court.

The Virginia, Danish, arrived at Kirkwall December 14, and proceeded to Newcastle, where she discharged her consignments of rubber, which were placed before the prize court. She cleared port January 7.

The Augusta, Swedish, was detained December 23, carrying rubber and aluminum. The aluminum was thrown into the prize court, but the vessel was permitted to proceed with the rubber.

The New Sweden, Swedish, arrived at Kirkwall December 2, carrying aluminum, nickel and copper. She was sent to Newcastle, and when portions of the cargo under suspicion were unloaded the ship proceeded January 9.

IS UNAVOIDABLE

The Kentucky, Danish, arrived at Kirkwall December 18, and was authorized to proceed December 20 to Leth to discharge her cargo of meat. Known to be intended for an enemy of Great Britain. The Kentucky stranded in Fraserburgh Bay, and was floated December 28, but because of the accident and the position of the meat in the hold a delay in unloading was unavoidable.

The Harold was permitted to proceed with a delay of only a few hours. The Brindilla, American, formerly a German tank ship, loaded a cargo of the interned German ship Excelsior in the Azores in December. She was not detained, but appears subsequently to have encountered navigation difficulties and put into Saint Helena for a pilot.

The John D. Rockefeller arrived at the Downs on December 16 with a full cargo of naphtha and benzoin for Scandinavian ports. She was permitted to proceed December 24.

The Joseph W. Fordney put in at

Only One "BROMO QUININE."

Whenever you feel a cold coming, think of the full name, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for signature of E. W. Grove on box. 25c—Adv.

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